

Before Starting the Special CoC Application

You must submit both of the following parts in order for us to consider your Special NOFO Consolidated Application complete:

1. the CoC Application, and
2. the CoC Priority Listing.

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

As the Collaborative Applicant, you are responsible for reviewing the following:

1. The Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (Special NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The Special NOFO Continuum of Care (CoC) Application Detailed Instructions for Collaborative Applicants which provide additional information and guidance for completing the application.
3. All information provided to ensure it is correct and current.
4. Responses provided by project applicants in their Project Applications.
5. The application to ensure all documentation, including attachment are provided.

CoC Approval is Required before You Submit Your CoC's Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application

- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on behalf of your CoC.
- 24 CFR 578.9(b) requires you to obtain approval from your CoC before you submit the Consolidated Application into e-snaps.

Answering Multi-Part Narrative Questions

Many questions require you to address multiple elements in a single text box. Number your responses to correspond with multi-element questions using the same numbers in the question. This will help you organize your responses to ensure they are complete and help us to review and score your responses.

Attachments

Questions requiring attachments to receive points state, "You must upload the [Specific Attachment Name] attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen." Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. Include a cover page with the attachment name.

- Attachments must match the questions they are associated with—if we do not award points for evidence you upload and associate with the wrong question, this is not a valid reason for you to appeal HUD's funding determination.

- We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).

1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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1A-1. CoC Name and Number: NH-500 - New Hampshire Balance of State CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: State of New Hampshire

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: State of New Hampshire

1A-5. New Projects	
Complete the chart below by indicating which funding opportunity(ies) your CoC applying for projects under. A CoC may apply for funding under both set asides; however, projects funded through the rural set aside may only be used in rural areas, as defined in the Special NOFO.	
1.	Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside
2.	Rural Homelessness Set Aside

Yes

Yes

1B. Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking–Local Competition

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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1B-1.	Web Posting of Your CoC Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for project application submission for your CoC's local competition.	08/12/2022

1B-2.	Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.a.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected new project applications during your CoC's local competition:	
1.	Established total points available for each project application type.	Yes
2.	At least 33 percent of the total points were based on objective criteria for the project application (e.g., cost effectiveness, timely draws, utilization rate, match, leverage), performance data, type of population served (e.g., DV, youth, Veterans, chronic homelessness), or type of housing proposed (e.g., PSH, RRH).	Yes
3.	At least 20 percent of the total points were based on system performance criteria for the project application (e.g., exits to permanent housing destinations, retention of permanent housing, length of time homeless, returns to homelessness).	Yes

1B-3.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
1.	Did your CoC reject or reduce any project application(s)?	Yes
2.	Did your CoC inform the applicants why their projects were rejected or reduced?	Yes
3.	If you selected yes, for element 1 of this question, enter the date your CoC notified applicants that their project applications were being rejected or reduced, in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	09/07/2022

1B-3a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	09/07/2022
1B-4.	Web Posting of the CoC-Approved Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC posted its Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on the CoC's website or affiliate's website—which included: 1. the CoC Application, and 2. Priority Listings.	10/17/2022

2A. System Performance

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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2A-1.	Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless—Risk Factors.	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.b.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. how your CoC determined which risk factors your CoC uses to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time;	
	2. how your CoC addresses individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless; and	
	3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time or to end homelessness for individuals and families.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. BOSCOCC reviewed local data from the BOSCOCC Coordinated Entry Prioritization List, which is pulled from HMIS and the DV comparable database, about people entering homelessness, and reviewed national diversion tools to determine characteristics and risk factors of those at risk for becoming homeless. The primary risk factors identified are current eviction notice, doubled up status for any length of time, DV risk, families with children, and lack of available financial/supportive resources. Over the last year, the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic influenced the risk factors. Rising costs of food, fuel, and housing have had a greater impact on people with low incomes, putting many households at risk of becoming homeless. BOSCOCC adopted the National Alliance to End Homelessness' Prevention & Diversion Tool guided assessment as an initial Coordinated Entry assessment, which assesses for risk factors above, to gather data and confirm the risk factors listed above.
2. BOSCOCC strategy is to divert people presenting for homeless services to other available CoC resources including prevention activities. If safe housing can't be maintained without financial intervention prevention programs such as the Emergency Solutions Grant Homelessness Prevention, Supportive Services for Veteran Families HP, American Rescue Plan resources such as Emergency Housing Vouchers and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, or state funded Housing Stabilization Programs. Local municipality & faith based financial assistance networks are alerted to provide assistance to avoid homelessness. Homeless prevention programs conducted landlord outreach to educate landlords of available assistance programs. NH leverages eviction and homelessness prevention programs to best match household to resources to avoid housing loss. Providing security deposit & 1st month's rent & other state funded intervention services increased people diverted from entering the homeless system. In 2020, the Governor's Council on Housing Stability (CHS) was established and produced a Statewide Plan to End Homelessness in NH which includes a measures to increase discharges from public institutions directly into stable housing, averting homelessness. The Homelessness and Housing workgroup of the CHS is creating the second year action plan, with a focus on increasing homelessness prevention funding and services.
3. BHS Chief & BOSCOCC co-chairs are responsible for oversight of these activities & strategies.

2A-2.	Length of Time Homeless--Strategy to Reduce. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.c.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;	
	2. how your CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and	
	3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. To reduce the length of time (LOT), the BOSCOG prioritizes people experiencing chronic homelessness (CH), and if there are no eligible CH households, the BOSCOG prioritizes by longest homelessness, presence of disability, and severe service needs. The BOSCOG adopted Notice CPD 16-11: Prioritizing Persons Experiencing CH and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in PSH into the BOSCOG Written Standards, the Coordinated Entry System and CoC's Policy & Procedure Manuals, requiring all PH, RRH, & TH to prioritize the longest time homeless for openings. These standards determine CE referrals for project openings & are verified in compliance monitoring. The COC allocates ESG Rapid Re-housing funding to cover each CoC county to quickly house people and reduce people having to experience a long LOT homeless. The BOSCOG partnered with the NH Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) to administer the Emergency Housing Vouchers, prioritizing people experiencing homelessness to quickly house people who are considered literally homeless. Housing navigation services help people locate housing units, security deposit and first month's rent assistance are funded for the entire BOSCOG geography. Local areas cultivate landlord relationships to increase access to units for people who do not have a perfect rental history. Community Action Programs offer utility assistance, so people with poor credit history in securing utilities, have one less barrier in obtaining housing.
2. People are assessed upon entry into the homeless service system through CE for LOT homeless, and it is documented on the Prioritization List to be used as a factor for available housing resources. PSH, RRH & TH, along with ESG RRH projects house those with the longest LOT homeless by notifying the Coordinated Entry lead of openings, and requesting a referral. Referrals are made as described above, following Notice CPD 16-11. Referred households are contacted to determine eligibility and then assisted with housing search and placement. Using ESG-CV funds, BOSCOG partners expanded street outreach and rapid rehousing programs to better identify people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and move them into permanent housing.
3. BHS Chief & BOSCOG co-chairs are responsible for oversight of these activities & strategies.

2A-3.	Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.d.	
Describe in the field below how your CoC will increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in:		
1.	emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations; and	
2.	permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. BOSCO emergency shelters (ES), transitional housing (TH) projects & rapid rehousing (RRH) projects have staff that help people identify housing barriers & solutions in order to move to permanent housing (PH). BOSCO has no safe haven projects. Strategies include weekly COC notification of PH openings, referrals from the Prioritization List, (prioritized following Notice CPD 16-11, and the COVID assessment tool), Written Standards require projects to terminate only for the most severe violations, annual project compliance monitoring & linking to services & financial assistance resources such as security & utility deposits, to provide one-time or on-going assistance to successfully exit to PH. Joint bimonthly meetings are held to share info about local housing resources that are not yet connected with BOSCO. Projects develop relationships with landlords to gain access to available units for people to quickly move into and retain at project exit. Using federal American Rescue Plan funds, agencies are offering landlord incentive programs, and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program expanded rental assistance designed to move people into housing. Using ESG-CV, RRH projects implemented landlord incentive programs, housing navigators to assist with finding & securing units, and unit cleaning funds as an additional incentive to landlords. The BOSCO partnered with NH Housing Finance Authority to administer the Emergency Housing Vouchers. Emergency Shelters received training on how to refer applicants for EHV, and most referrals came from ES providers. 2. The strategy to increase the rate that people in PH retain housing or exit to PH is the implementation of Written Standards requiring projects to terminate for only the most severe violations, annual project compliance monitoring for discharges, mediation services for tenants/landlords to resolve conflicts before eviction, & state funded prevention assistance to maintain housing in emergency situations. Services are tailored to persons needs so they can build tenancy skills to help maintain housing. Case managers develop service plans w/people to identify ways to increase housing stability & they assist people to apply for Housing Choice Vouchers/public housing options. In 2020 the BOSCO partnered with NH Housing Finance Authority, the statewide PHA, to implement a Moving On preference for people in PSH projects.

2A-4.	Returns to Homelessness—CoC's Strategy to Reduce Rate. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.e.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC identifies individuals and families who return to homelessness;
2.	your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate of additional returns to homelessness; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. BOSCOCC conducts an initial Prevention and Diversion assessment with people entering the homeless services system, which captures prior experiences with homelessness, and is then followed by a more detailed Coordinated Entry assessment. Once referred to a program more detailed historical info is gathered. This information is captured in HMIS and the characteristics of those who have returned to homelessness are reviewed to determine trends, and resources needed to prevent returns for future households. In 2021 the BOSCOCC transitioned to a new HMIS software platform, with better reporting capabilities, allowing the BOSCOCC to view reports based on a variety of factors including demographics and identified housing barriers.
2. The BOSCOCC's strategy to reduce the rate of returns to homelessness includes diverting people presenting for homeless services to other available CoC and mainstream resources, BOSCOCC Written Standards restricting projects from terminating housing to only the most severe violations, and offering mediation services between landlords and tenants prior to eviction. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) homeless prevention funding is allocated for the entire BOSCOCC geography to provide assistance if housing is in jeopardy, and an expanded state funded housing stabilization program has been implemented to prevent people from entering homelessness by providing housing stability services and financial assistance to eligible participants. ESG recipients receive case management for 6 months after financial assistance ends to help them maintain housing. BHS conducts project monitoring at least annually to ensure compliance with the above and requires projects to notify before termination to avoid returns to homelessness. The BOSCOCC Executive Committee and HMIS Advisory Committee reviews system performance measures, including returns to homelessness, to identify system-level issues contributing to returns.
3. BHS Chief & BOSCOCC co-chairs are responsible for oversight of these activities & strategies.

2A-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income–Strategy. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase employment cash sources;	
	2. how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families increase their cash income; and	
	3. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase income from employment.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The strategy to increase employment cash income includes increasing coordination at the state level between departments that fund service resources to connect people to employment training and job placement. TANF & Medicaid programs have employment requirements, including support in accessing training and employment opportunities. BOSCOC partners with the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), where these services, and others including Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled and cash assistance, are housed, in order to educate providers on available services and eligibility requirements to support access for people experiencing homelessness. Additional DHHS partnerships include with Child Development & Head Start Collaboration to educate providers on childcare scholarships & Head Start enrollment to help clients overcome barriers to employment. Bureau of Housing Supports (BHS) annual CoC project monitoring, and monthly performance reviews identify projects struggling with increasing employment resources who are then provided assistance to identify local and State resources to refer clients to for employment opportunities. Projects are scored on this metric during the COC NOFO rank and review process, and are evaluated during annual COC Program Monitoring. If a project does not meet the COC threshold for this metric, they are issued a corrective action plan and given 1 year to improve their performance.
2. The BOSCOC formed relationships at the end of 2018 with the DHHS Bureau of Employment Supports & NH Employment Security (NHES - unemployment office). NHES operates 12 full service employment centers that offer Monday – Friday scheduled meetings & drop-in hours for people seeking employment. NHES staff provided education to BOSCOC providers on how to access available services so BOSCOC providers can support people experiencing homelessness w/increasing their employment opportunities & income. The Bureau of Employment Supports has staff co-located in the regional district offices, where people apply for mainstream benefits. All individuals who apply for benefits are assessed for housing and employment needs, and are connected with their local employment resources.
3. BHS Chief & BOSCOC co-chairs are responsible for oversight of these activities & strategies.

2A-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income–Strategy. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase non-employment cash income;	
	2. your CoC's strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources; and	
	3. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.	
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(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Mainstream programs are invited to BOSCOG meetings to educate projects on their resources, and 211 staff are trained to assess and refer individuals to resources to increase non-employment cash income. All BOSCOG Programs help participants apply and maintain benefits through NH's single benefit application for cash assistance, medical, SNAP, childcare, medical beneficiary, and long term supports and services. Staff are required to assist with appeals if initial applications are denied. Bureau of Housing Supports (BHS) conducts annual CoC project monitoring, and monthly performance reviews to identify projects struggling with increasing non-employment cash income. Struggling projects are provided assistance to identify local & State resources. Projects are scored on this metric during the COC NOFO rank and review process, and are evaluated during annual COC Program Monitoring. If a project does not meet the COC threshold a corrective action plan is issued & 1 year is given to improve their performance. The strategy to increase non-employment cash income access includes increasing coordination at the state level between departments that fund services & resources to provide education to BOSCOG providers on eligibility and how to apply for mainstream cash sources such as SSI/SSDI, TANF, SNAP, and Medicaid. BOSCOG providers assist people experiencing homelessness with applying for mainstream benefits, in order to facilitate access for individuals experiencing homelessness, which is required through the COC Program Policy and Procedure. The NH PATH Administrator is SOAR trained, and all BOSCOG funded projects have at least 1 SOAR trained staff person that assist clients with their SSI applications. BOSCOG programs provide assistance in applying for and accessing mainstream benefits programs through their supportive services, which assists individuals with increasing their ability to access non-employment cash income. This strategy has increased non-employment cash income by 5% from FY20 – FY 21.

2. The BOSCOG will continue with the above strategy, and will continue to increase the number of COC project staff that are SOAR trained to increase access to non-employment cash sources for CoC program participants.

3. BHS Chief & BOSCOG co-chairs are responsible for oversight of these activities & strategies.

2B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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2B-1.	Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Sections VII.B.3.a.(1)	

In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022:

1.	select yes or no in the chart below if the entity listed participates in CoC meetings, voted—including selecting CoC Board members, and participated in your CoC's coordinated entry system; or
2.	select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist in your CoC's geographic area:

	Organization/Person	Participated in CoC Meetings	Voted, Including Electing of CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC's Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	Agencies serving survivors of human trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	CoC-Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Disability Advocates	No	No	No
7.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	No
8.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
9.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	Hospital(s)	Yes	No	No
12.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent	No	No
13.	Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
14.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
16.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
17.	Local Jail(s)	No	No	No
18.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes

20.	Non-CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	No
21.	Non-CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	No
22.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	No	No	No
23.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	No	No	No
25.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)			
33.				
34.				

By selecting "other" you must identify what "other" is.

2B-2.	Open Invitation for New Members. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(2), V.B.3.g.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	communicated the invitation process annually to solicit new members to join the CoC;
2.	ensured effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats;
3.	conducted outreach to ensure persons experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons are encouraged to join your CoC; and
4.	invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, other People of Color, persons with disabilities).

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. BOSCOCC communicates the member invitation process annually in writing & verbally. Written invites occur in an email request, including a request for recipients of the email to forward the invitation to their contact lists for further reach. BHS posts an open invite for new members on Facebook & BOS section of BHS website. BHS posted an open invite for new BOSCOCC members on the NH Dept of Health & Human Services Public Notices website. Verbal invites occur during regional meetings w/housing & services providers, COC monitoring visits, & program specific meetings BOSCOCC members attend, including meetings w/ESG jurisdiction. BOSCOCC shares the invite both verbally & in writing to the members of the NH Governor's Council on Housing Stability (CHS). All invites include the request to share the invitation w/external networks.
2. All invites to new members to the BOSCOCC offer a staff contact should anyone need communication accommodations e.g. interpretation, translation, deaf/hard of hearing assistance, or other assistance to access materials like providing hard copies of the materials vs. digital copies. W/5 days notice, BOSCOCC can provide communication accommodations for BOSCOCC & subcommittee meetings.
3. BOSCOCC Coordinated Entry Subcommittee conducted focus groups w/people w/lived experience who received assistance through the CE System. Every focus group participant was invited to join the BOSCOCC. COC project staff engaged people w/lived experience in their projects, & invited them to join the BOSCOCC. Through the NH Council on Housing Stability, the Collaborative Applicant outreached to homeless services providers & requested they invite people w/lived experience to join the BOSCOCC.
4. BOSCOCC partners w/DHHS Office of Health Equity (OHE) & the COVID-19 Equity Task Force to extend an invitation to join the BOSCOCC to organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness. OHE & the Equity Task Force shared the invitation w/their member agencies. Also through DHHS, the BOSCOCC partners w/the Division of Long Term Supports & Services, including Developmental Services & Elderly/Adult Services, to extend invitations to join the BOSCOCC to agencies serving seniors & individuals w/disabilities. Through the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program creation of a Coordinated Community Plan, BOSCOCC has created partnerships w/agencies providing support & advocacy for LGBTQ+ individuals, & agencies calling for social, racial, & economic justice.

2B-3.	CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(3)	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	solicited and considered opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that have knowledge of homelessness or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness;
2.	communicated information during public meetings or other forums your CoC uses to solicit public information; and
3.	took into consideration information gathered in public meetings or forums to address improvements or new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. BOSCO staff integrate into the community to solicit feedback, share updates and raise awareness of steps to end/prevent homelessness. Staff attend regional coalitions to end homelessness to share info, solicit feedback on BOSCO efforts to respond to identified needs and prioritize resources, and report feedback to BOSCO. BOSCO considers feedback, and votes on changes as needed. We provide the Consolidated Plan planning group quarterly updates. BOSCO through listserv & staff encourages non-participating community members to attend BOSCO meetings to provide direct feedback into decisions impacting the homeless system. In Nov 2019, the 40 member NH Governor's Council on Housing Stability (CHS) was created and includes homeless/housing providers, DHHS and CoC leadership, municipal welfare, law enforcement/corrections, education, employment, veteran services, and others. BOSCO leadership were appointed Council members, and leads the Homeless and Housing workgroup in partnership with the NH Coalition to End Homelessness to solicit feedback from Council members, homeless services providers, people w/lived experience, and mayors from each of NH's 13 cities. Feedback is considered for all BOSCO policy decisions, and decisions to pursue funding opportunities. 2. BOSCO staff attend monthly meetings, and email local leaders to request agenda time to communicate information in public forums. COC staff send policy, procedures, federal guidance, or local documents to local groups to provide comment. BOSCO email list is utilized to notify about upcoming decisions. BOSCO presents to the CHS at least annually in full council meetings and the Homeless and Housing workgroup meeting information about BOSCO activities/projects. BOSCO presents annually to the Housing and Community Development Planning Council, which is the advisory group for the NH ESG/HOME/CDBG jurisdiction. 3. BOSCO staff reports to BOSCO co-chair biweekly to ensure info is shared timely. Outreach has led to new members from an under-served area's housing coalition to help inform CoC Planning. Updates are included in COC email updates & social media & included on BOSCO agendas to inform decision-making. Feedback is discussed w/members before decisions are final. Information and feedback are shared with the subcommittees of the BOSCO to incorporate into policy and procedure updates, which are then presented to the full BOSCO membership for discussion and approval before implementation.

2B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Funded. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(4)	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:
1.	that your CoC's local competition was open and accepting project applications;
2.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;
3.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications;
4.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and
5.	how your CoC effectively communicated with individuals with disabilities, including making information accessible in electronic formats.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. BOSCOG gave notice that the local competition was opening by sharing info through BOSCOG listserv, posting on the Collaborative Applicant website, and posting on the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Public Notice website that HUD notice of funding was released. BOSCOG shared the formal request for applications (RFA) along with all supporting documents through email to the listserv, posted on BOSCOG section of the NH DHHS website, and posted on the DHHS Public Notice website. Also, the detailed info was provided in a virtual BOSCOG meeting that was open to the public.
2. All written communication includes the statement "BOSCOG encourages all eligible applicants to submit an application, even if your agency has not applied or received funds in the past. Please pass along this funding opportunity to your mailing lists and other eligible applicants". This same message is communicated verbally during BOSCOG meetings. BOSCOG sent the announcement to partner program areas including adult & children's behavioral health, Public Housing Authorities, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and others, and requested that the announcement be shared with their mailing lists.
3. Written RFA document distributed thru multiple communication channels included detailed info about how to submit renewal, new and DV Bonus project applications to the BOSCOG. This info was also reviewed during a BOSCOG virtual meeting on 8/9/2022.
4. BOSCOG Rank & Review Policy for the CoC competition was distributed with request for applications. This policy provides detailed info about how new, renewal, and DV Bonus projects are scored and ranked. Also included in this communication were the scoring tools for new, renewal, and DV Bonus project applications so applicants could see exact criteria for scoring applications.
5. All invites to apply for funding from the BOSCOG offer a staff contact should anyone need alternate formats or communication accommodations eg. interpretation, translation, deaf/hard of hearing assistance, or other assistance to access materials like providing hard copies of the materials vs. digital copies. With 5 days notice, BOSCOG can provide communication accommodations for BOSCOG & subcommittee meetings.

2C. Coordination / Engagement—with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

2C-1.	Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations. (All Applicants)
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b.
	In the chart below:
1.	select yes or no for entities listed that are included in your CoC's coordination, planning, and operations of projects that serve individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, persons who are fleeing domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of homelessness; or
2.	select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist within your CoC's geographic area.

	Entities or Organizations Your CoC Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects	Coordinates with Planning or Operations of Projects
1.	Funding Collaboratives	Yes
2.	Head Start Program	Yes
3.	Housing and services programs funded through Local Government	Yes
4.	Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-CoC)	Yes
5.	Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations	Yes
6.	Housing and services programs funded through State Government	Yes
7.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Yes
8.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	Yes
9.	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Yes
10.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent
11.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	No
12.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes
13.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes
14.	Private Foundations	Yes
15.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes
16.	Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	Yes
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	
18.		

2C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG funds;
2.	participated in evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients;
3.	provided Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area; and
4.	provided information to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions to address homelessness within your CoC's geographic area so it could be addressed in Consolidated Plan update.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The Bureau of Housing Support (BHS) is the Collaborative Applicant for the BOSCO, and is the ESG Program Recipient for the State of NH, covering the entire geography of the BOSCO. Planning for the current Consolidated Plan was concurrent w/ESG-CV planning. 8 listening sessions were held over a 5 month period, including 1 formal public hearing. Citizen participation included an online survey to ESG subrecipients, constituents, partners, interested parties, & others including shelter guests. Feedback & discussion happened about: NH ESG program design, policies/procedures, expected available funds & allocation examples, process for evaluating outcomes, performance standards, review of racial disparity data, & crosswalk for uses of CV federal funding to best leverage ESG & ESG-CV funding. 2. BHS, in partnership w/BOSCO, adopted ESG policies and procedures that were then included in the BOSCO Written Standards. Performance benchmarks include the reduction of time spent homeless, increased exits to permanent housing, increased housing retention or positive Permanent Housing exits for Homelessness Prevention & reduction of returns to homelessness. BOSCO ESG-CV subrecipients complete the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Reports (CAPERs) quarterly for CV & annually for annual ESG. ESG updates are shared annually with the BOSCO during a general membership meeting, and with other housing partners during the NH Housing & Community Development Planning Council meetings on an annual basis. 3. BHS distributes the Point in Time count & Housing Inventory Count to Con Plan jurisdiction members through BOSCO listserv, which is open to everyone. 4. BOSCO leadership sits on the NH Housing & Community Development Planning Council; a steering committee providing consultation on NH's Consolidated Planning process consisting of public & private housing representatives, government & nonprofit social service agencies. As COC lead & ESG State Recipient, BHS provides info for Con Plan updates so homelessness is addressed w/updated action steps. BHS shares annual CAPER, Action Plan & Con Plan amendments as needed in conjunction w/NH Finance Authority (HOME recipient) & Community Development Finance Authority (CDBG recipient) to ensure prioritized resources & response to needs w/in the homeless response system.

2C-3.	Discharge Planning Coordination. (All Applicants)
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.c.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC actively coordinates with the systems of care listed to ensure persons who have resided in them longer than 90 days are not discharged directly to the streets, emergency shelters, or other homeless assistance programs.		
1.	Foster Care	Yes
2.	Health Care	Yes
3.	Mental Health Care	Yes
4.	Correctional Facilities	Yes

2C-4.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts. (All Applicants)
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the entities your CoC collaborates with:		
1.	Youth Education Provider	Yes
2.	State Education Agency (SEA)	Yes
3.	Local Education Agency (LEA)	Yes
4.	School Districts	Yes

2C-4a.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts–Formal Partnerships. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC collaborates with the entities checked in Question 2C-4; and
2.	the formal partnerships your CoC has with the entities checked in Question 2C-4.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The BOSCOCC collaborates with youth education providers through the Youth Homelessness Subcommittee, and the DHHS Early Childhood Integration Team (ECIT). The BOSCOCC Youth Homelessness Subcommittee includes McKinney-Vento homeless liaisons from several districts within the BOSCOCC, and other youth education providers such as Head Start directors and school guidance counselors and/or social workers, and is guided by the subcommittee's Mission, which follows the USICH Framework to End Youth Homelessness. The ECIT focuses on younger children having access to quality resources and supports within their communities, and has partners including the BOSCOCC, Early Headstart, Pre-school development staff, and childcare staff.

The Department of Education Director of the Office of Homeless Education represents the State Education Agency on the BOSCOCC Youth Homelessness Subcommittee, and McKinney-Vento liaisons from multiple districts represent Local Education Agencies from the BOSCOCC geography. The SEA and LEAs are part of the YHDP Core Leadership team, which is the decision making team for the YHDP Coordinated Community Plan development. BOSCOCC YHDP lead meets monthly with the SEA lead.

The BOSCOCC partnered with 4 school districts, including the superintendents, homeless liaisons, and other school staff, to coordinate and plan a pilot youth count for October 2021. This partnership will be used as a model for other school districts moving forward.

2. The Youth Subcommittee partnerships are formalized through the BOSCOCC Governance Charter, and the BOSCOCC YHDP Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) team. ECIT partnerships are formalized through a committee charter, which identifies the membership and ECIT goals. Partnerships between BOSCOCC and the SEA and LEAs are formalized through the Youth Homelessness Subcommittee and the YHDP CCP Team charters. Partnerships between BOSCOCC and school districts are formalized through the Youth Homelessness Subcommittee and the YHDP CCP Team charters.

2C-4b.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

Describe in the field below written policies and procedures your CoC adopted to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for educational services

(limit 2,500 characters)

Per the BOSCOC Written Standards, all projects serving families with children must demonstrate that they have established policies and practices that are consistent with the McKinney-Vento Act, and other laws relating to education and related services for homeless individuals. This includes requirements to inform homeless families and youth of their eligibility for McKinney Vento education services during program intake, not requiring children to enroll in new schools as a condition of program entry, not establishing program requirements that prohibit children from remaining in their school of origin, and developing relationships with colleges to access higher education services specifically for homeless youth per the Higher Education Act. The BOSCOC Written Standards also require projects serving families with children to designate a staff person to ensure that children are enrolled in school and connected to services in the community including Head Start, Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and McKinney-Vento education services. The Department of Education Director for the Office of Homeless Education is a member of the BOSCOC Youth Subcommittee, along with several McKinney-Vento homeless liaisons from NH school districts. Through this partnership, the BOSCOC has received training on education services available to students experiencing homelessness. The BOSCOC reviews subrecipient policies and practices during annual onsite program monitoring.

The BOSCOC was selected as a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program community during Rounds 4 and 5. BOSCOC leadership has engaged with the National Center for Homeless Education through YHDP technical assistance to further improve the collaboration between the BOSCOC and NH's Education for Homeless Children and Youths program where quarterly meetings are held with McKinney Vento liaisons and higher education partners. This ongoing collaboration has improved awareness and educational opportunities for COC Subrecipient agencies on the requirements to inform individuals and families experiencing homelessness of their eligibility for educational services.

2C-5.	Mainstream Resources—CoC Training of Project Staff. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

Indicate in the chart below whether your CoC trains project staff annually on the following mainstream resources available for program participants within your CoC's geographic area:

	Mainstream Resource	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1.	Food Stamps	Yes
2.	SSI—Supplemental Security Income	Yes
3.	TANF—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes
4.	Substance Abuse Programs	Yes
5.	Employment Assistance Programs	Yes
6.	Other	

You must select a response for elements 1 through 6 in question 2C-5.

2C-5a.	Mainstream Resources—CoC Collaboration with Project Staff Regarding Healthcare Organizations. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	systemically provides up-to-date information on mainstream resources available for program participants (e.g., Food Stamps, SSI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC's geographic area;	
2.	works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations to assist program participants with enrolling in health insurance;	
3.	provides assistance to project staff with the effective use of Medicaid and other benefits; and	
4.	works with projects to promote SOAR certification of program staff.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.BOSCOC w/NH Dept of Health & Human Services (DHHS), provides 1:1 training to members on mainstream program options, eligibility/application process to assist project participants. Bureau of Housing Supports (BHS), collaborative applicant, connects BOS program staff directly w/eligibility staff to streamline the application process. Mainstream benefit staff present at BOS mtgs to share changes in programs & eligibility. In high volume regions BOS programs have a dedicated benefits eligibility specialist to improve access for program participants.

2.BOSCOC members include PATH outreach, SUD providers, Managed Care Organizations, FQHCs, Regional Public Health Networks, & Community Mental Health Centers allowing project staff to have professional partnerships to assist program participants w/receiving healthcare services. BHS collaborates w/DHHS Bureau of Mental Health Services & Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services to partner at the leadership level & to support agency level collaboration when there are gaps in the community.

3.BOSCOC partners w/NH DHHS Division of Medicaid Services to educate CoC & ESG project staff on effective use of Medicaid benefits. Medicaid Services presented to the BOS on eligibility, enrollment, & services available. BHS applied to CMS for a Supportive Housing Medicaid benefit, approved July 1, 2022. BHS w/Medicaid Services, will provide training to project staff on this new benefit.

4.BHS ESG/PATH admin is the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, & Recovery (SOAR) lead for NH. SOAR lead has facilitated training for local SOAR leads to ensure certification in all areas of the BOS. The SOAR State Lead conference expanded strategic recruiting, funding & implementation of the SOAR initiative. BOS recruited regional leads per SSA catchment area, who attended the SOAR TA local lead trainings. Local leads coordinate w/regional SSA offices, promote SOAR courses in regional homeless & housing mtgs, assist w/regional cohort trainings & report outcomes. SOAR course is provided as part of onboarding for all BHS street outreach projects. Types of agencies w/SOAR certified staff include shelters, COC & ESG PH projects, 811 & other behavioral health targeted housing programs through DHHS Division of Behavioral Health, VAMCs, hospitals & FQHCs, community mental health centers & SUD organizations. The regional leads & expanded providers trained in SOAR provide a coordinated, community response, to minimize the impact of staff turnover in any individual agency.

3A. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3A-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs—New Projects. (Rural Set Aside Only).	
	Special NOFO Section VII.A.	
If the answer to the question below is yes, you must upload the CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.		
Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project(s) under the Rural Set Aside for housing rehabilitation or new construction costs?		No

3B. Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	
Is your CoC requesting to designate one or more of its SSO, TH, or Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects to serve families with children or youth experiencing homelessness as defined by other Federal statutes?		No

3B-2.	Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	
	You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below:	
1.	how serving this population is of equal or greater priority, which means that it is equally or more cost effective in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the plan submitted under Section 427(b)(1)(B) of the Act, especially with respect to children and unaccompanied youth than serving the homeless as defined in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3; and	
2.	how your CoC will meet requirements described in Section 427(b)(1)(F) of the Act.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

N/A

4A. Attachments Screen For All Application Questions

		Please read the following guidance to help you successfully upload attachments and get maximum points:	
	1.	You must include a Document Description for each attachment you upload; if you do not, the Submission Summary screen will display a red X indicating the submission is incomplete.	
	2.	You must upload an attachment for each document listed where 'Required?' is 'Yes'	
	3.	We prefer that you use PDF files, though other file types are supported—please only use zip files if necessary. Converting electronic files to PDF, rather than printing documents and scanning them, often produces higher quality images and reduces file size. Many systems allow you to create PDF files as a Print Option. If you are unfamiliar with this process, you should consult your IT Support or search for information on Google or YouTube.	
	4.	Attachments must match the questions they are associated with.	
	5.	Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process.	
	6.	If you cannot read the attachment, it is likely we cannot read it either. - We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time). - We must be able to read everything you want us to consider in any attachment.	
	7.	Open attachments once uploaded to ensure they are the correct attachment for the required Document Type.	
Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1B-1. Local Competition Announcement	Yes	NH-500 Local Comp...	10/13/2022
1B-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool	Yes	NH-500 Local Comp...	10/13/2022
1B-3. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced	Yes	NH-500 Notificati...	10/17/2022
1B-3a. Notification of Projects Accepted	Yes	NH-500 Notificati...	10/17/2022
1B-4. Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application	Yes		
3A-1. CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs	No		
3B-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes	No		
P-1. Leveraging Housing Commitment	No		
P-1a. PHA Commitment	No		
P-3. Healthcare Leveraging Commitment	No		
P-9c. Lived Experience Support Letter	No	NH-500 Lived Expe...	10/14/2022
Plan. CoC Plan	Yes	NH-500 CoC Plan	10/14/2022

Attachment Details

Document Description: NH-500 Local Competition Deadline

Attachment Details

Document Description: NH-500 Local Competition Scoring Tool

Attachment Details

Document Description: NH-500 Notification of Projects Rejected-
Reduced

Attachment Details

Document Description: NH-500 Notification of Projects Accepted

Attachment Details

Document Description:

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Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description: NH-500 Lived Experience Support Letter

Attachment Details

Document Description: NH-500 CoC Plan

Submission Summary

Ensure that the Special NOFO Project Priority List is complete prior to submitting.

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	10/11/2022
1B. Project Review, Ranking and Selection	10/14/2022
2A. System Performance	10/13/2022
2B. Coordination and Engagement	10/14/2022
2C. Coordination and Engagement–Con't.	10/14/2022
3A. New Projects With Rehab/New Construction	No Input Required
3B. Homelessness by Other Federal Statutes	10/14/2022
4A. Attachments Screen	Please Complete
Submission Summary	No Input Required

NH-500

FY22 CoC Supplemental Program NOFO

1B. Web Posting of Your CoC's Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice

This file contains the following document used by NH-500 to publicly announce the CoC Competition.

- 1) Screenshot of Public Posting on Website which contains:
 - a. The local submission deadline for applicants to submit their applications to the CoC of August 29, 2022 by 12pm
 - b. A statement that the deadline is for the NH-500 Balance of State CoC's local competition for Supplemental CoC Program funding
 - c. A system generated date and time stamp showing the public posting screenshot was taken on August 12, 2022 at 3:52pm.

Request for NH-500 Balance of S x +

dhhs.nh.gov/news-and-media/request-nh-500-balance-state-continuum-care-project-applications

News Imported From IE TimesheetPLUS Policies - Connectic... Dashboard BET Brainstorming Tem... Southern-Nevada-P... Microsoft Office Ho... Other bookmarks

The NH-500 Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoSCoC) is also seeking new project applications for the FY22 Continuum of Care Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity for Rural and Unsheltered Homelessness. New project applications must be submitted electronically to Melissa Hatfield at Melissa.l.hatfield@dhhs.nh.gov by Monday, August 29, 2022 by 12pm.

Funds available for new projects from the BoSCoC are as follows:

- Unsheltered Homelessness: A maximum of \$3,354,262 over 3 years
- Rural Homelessness: A maximum of \$2,786,244 over 3 years

When developing new project please note that Rural funds and Unsheltered funds may not be used in the same project application.

As a reminder you will need the following documents for NH-500 BOSCO Supplemental NOFO competition:

- [Supplemental Request for Applications](#) pdf with details regarding funding available
- [SNOFO Project Scoring Tool](#) docx
- [SNOFO Rural Project Application](#) docx
- [SNOFO Unsheltered Project Application](#) docx
- [NH-500 Rank and Review Policy](#) pdf
- [NH-500 Reallocation Policy](#) pdf
- [NH-500 SNOFO Timeline](#) pdf

The BoSCoC encourages all eligible applicants to submit an application, even if your agency has not applied or received funds in the past. Please pass along this funding opportunity to your mailing lists and other eligible applicants.

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Hatfield at Melissa.L.Hatfield@dhhs.nh.gov.

Microsoft Word File (.docx). Visit nh.gov for [information regarding viewing a Microsoft Word document](#).

Portable Document Format (.pdf). Visit nh.gov for a list of free pdf readers for a variety of operating systems.

Escape Site

76°F Sunny 3:52 PM 8/12/2022

NH-500

FY22 Supplemental CoC Program NOFO

1B-2 Project Review and Ranking Process

This file contains the following document used to guide the project review and selection process:

- 1) Supplemental CoC New Project Scoring Tool
 - a. Objective criteria (orange rows) – 39 of 100 points available = 39%
 - b. System performance measures (green rows) – 27 points of 100 total
= 27%

2022 Supplemental CoC Program New Project Application Scoring Questions NH-500 Balance of State CoC

Agency:

Agency Contact:

Project Name:

Total Score:

Reviewer (s) Name:

All new projects must meet HUD threshold requirements

1. Project proposes to serve an eligible population for the project type?	Yes	No
2. Project proposes to use eligible costs for the project type?	Yes	No
3. Project applicant and subrecipient(s) are eligible entities?	Yes	No
4. Match is greater than or equal to 30%?	Yes	No
5. Project agrees to participate in CoC Coordinated Entry System (CES), and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or other comparable system for DV providers?	Yes	No
6. Project agrees to use Housing First principles and be low barrier?	Yes	No
7. Recipient and subrecipient meet CoC Program Eligibility requirements?	Yes	No

If any of the above answers are NO, project does not meet threshold and is not eligible for funding consideration.

PROJECT TYPE

8. What type of project(s) is being applied for?	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) OR Supportive Services Only (SSO)	Rapid Rehousing (RRH)	Transitional Housing- Rapid ReHousing (TH-RRH)
	10 points	5 points	1 point

EXPERIENCE

9. Does the applicant have experience in effectively utilizing HUD, State, or other Federal grants for the proposed activities?	Yes 8 points	No 0 points
10. Does applicant describe basic organization and management structure to successfully implement the project?	Up to 9 points	No 0 points
<i>NOTE: DV Projects must also address how participant safety has been improved in the past</i>		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BUDGET

11. Did the project application provide a clear description of the project type, scale, location, and supportive services to obtain or remain in permanent housing?	Up to 9 points
11a. For Permanent Housing Projects - clearly described how participants will be assisted in obtaining and maintaining permanent housing?	Up to 9 Points
11b. If SSO-(CE, street outreach or stand alone), does the application specifically describe linkages to permanent housing opportunities through in the SSO Project?	Up to 9 Points

12. Project clearly describes specific plan to coordinate and integrate with other mainstream health, social services, and employment program for which program participants may be eligible?	Up to 9 points
13. Is the proposed budget clear and realistic to carryout proposed activities?	Up to 9 points

CoC Participation (BoS Meetings)

14. Attendance of BoSCoC meetings in past year?	6 meetings	5 meetings	4 meetings	3 or less meetings
	5 points	4 points	3 points	0 points

Rural Set Aside Projects ONLY

15. Does the project describe a plan to serve Structurally Disadvantaged Areas*?	Yes 2 points	No 0 points
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Unsheltered and Rural Set Aside Projects ONLY

16. Is there a clear plan to serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs*?	Yes Up to 5 points	No 0 points
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EQUITY FACTORS

18. Agency management and leadership positions include representation from any of the following groups: black, indigenous, people of color, people who identify as LGBTQIA+?	Yes 1 point	No 0 Points
19. Board of Directors (or equivalent decision making entity) includes representation from any of the following groups: black, indigenous, people of color, people who identify as LGBTQIA+?	Yes 1 point	No 0 Points
20. Board of Directors (or equivalent decision making entity) include representation from persons with lived experience?	Yes 1 point	No 0 Points
21. Subrecipient Agency will commit to working with HMIS lead to develop a schedule for reviewing HMIS/ Comparable database data with disaggregation by race, ethnicity, gender identity, and/ or age within the next year.	Yes 1 point	No 0 Points
22. Does your agency have process for receiving and incorporating feedback from persons with lived experience?	Yes 1 point	No 0 points
23. Has your agency reviewed participant outcomes in your current projects with an equity lens? (including disaggregation by race, ethnicity, gender identify, and/or age)	Yes 1 Point	No 0 points

PARTNERING WITH HEALTH CARE RESOURCES AND HOUSING RESOURCES

24. Project has a least one formal written agreement with a health care organization to provide services to participants? ¹	25% of units 5 points	Under 25% of units 2 points	No 0 points
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¹ Access to treatment or recovery services for all program participants who qualify and choose services **OR** 25% of funding being requested for the project will be covered by the healthcare organization. Must be direct contributions, provision of health services to be tailored to program participants, and eligibility must comply with HUD program and Fair housing requirements.

25. Project has at least one written document committing subsidy/units to the project that is not funded through COC or ESG programs? ²	25% of units 5 points	Under 25% of units 2 points	No 0 points
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Term Definitions

Structurally Disadvantaged Areas:

Geographic areas that have high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty, and are located in areas where CoC services been unavailable.

Severe Service Needs:

Severe Service Needs means any combination of the following factors:

- Facing, significant challenges or functional impairments, including any physical, mental, developmental or behavioral health disabilities regardless of the type of disability, which require a significant level of support in order to maintain permanent housing (this factor focuses on the level of support needed and is not based on disability type);
- High utilization of crisis or emergency services to meet basic needs, including but not limited to emergency rooms, jails, and psychiatric facilities;
- Currently living in an unsheltered situation or having a history of living in an unsheltered situation;
- Experiencing a vulnerability to illness or death;
- Having a risk of continued or repeated homelessness; and a vulnerability to victimization, including physical assault, trafficking or sex work.

² PSH projects where at least 25 percent of units included in projects **OR** RRH projects 25 percent of the anticipated participants will be housed with funds other than CoC or ESG.

NH-500

FY22 Supplemental CoC Program NOFO

1B-3 Notification of Projects Rejected or Reduced

This file contains the following documents used to notify rejected project applications:

- 1) Email sent to Rejected Project Applicants with attached PDF letter
- 2) Final NH-500 BOSCOG Project List with rejection statement highlighted on the last page
- 3) Screenshot of web posting of the Final NH-500 BOSCOG Project List on September 8, 2022 at 7:04am
- 4) Email to NH-500 BOSCOG with Final Project List

From: [Hatfield, Melissa](#)
To: [Janice Spinney](#)
Cc: [Reagan, Mandy](#)
Subject: FY 22 Supplemental NOFO notice of decision
Date: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 2:52:00 PM

Thank you for your application for funding to the NH Balance of State Continuum of Care (NH BoSCoC) as part of our FY 2022 CoC Program Supplemental competition.

Your project was not selected for funding. The project did not pass HUD's threshold requirements and therefore is not eligible for funding consideration and was rejected by the committee-please see the attached letter. You may contact me if you would like more specifics on your project application. I will be sending further feedback at a later date.

The NH BoSCoC and Bureau of Housing Supports appreciates your participation in this process and we encourage you to continue to participate in NH BoSCoC activities in the future.

-
APPEALS: If you wish to submit an appeal, please notify Melissa Hatfield and Mandy Reagan in writing by **September 9, 2022 by 4:30pm at** Melissa.L.Hatfield@dhhs.nh.gov and Mandy.L.Reagan@dhhs.nh.gov

Per the NH-500 BoSCoC Program Rank & Review Policy:

-
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September 7, 2022

Janice Spinney

President

MWV Supports Recovery Coalition

Dear Janice Spinney,

We regret to inform you that your project; the MWV Transition House, is not eligible for FY2022 CoC Program funds, and as such will not be included in the project list for the NH Balance of State Continuum of Care (NH BoSCoC) FY2022 CoC Program Supplemental NOFO submission.

During the project application review to ensure compliance with all HUD CoC Program requirements, it was determined that your project did not meet threshold requirements for the FY2022 BoSCoC Program New Project Application Scoring Questions.

The project did not meet the following threshold requirements per the FY2021 CoC Program New Project Application Scoring Questions:

1. Per Question 7: The proposed project application provided incomplete information in regards to meeting CoC Program eligibility requirements for the project type. The project type applied for was Transitional Housing- Rapid Rehousing. This type of project combines the activities of a transitional housing project with those of a rapid re-housing project. The application did not include project description or budget components for the Rapid Rehousing component.

If you wish to submit an appeal, please send to Melissa Hatfield at Melissa.L.Hatfield@dhhs.nh.gov and Mandy Reagan at Mandy.L.Reagan@dhhs.nh.gov by September 9th, 2022 by 4:30 pm and we will submit to the review committee for consideration.

Sincerely,



Bureau of Housing Supports

NH-500 BOSCOC SNOFO PROGRAM PROJECT RANKING + SCORES FY2022				Unsheltered
				Rural
				Total Projects
Applicant Name	Project Name	Score	Rank	Amount
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10.25.2021

Public Notice: NH-500 Continuum

dhhs.nh.gov/news-and-media/public-notice-nh-500-continuum-care-snofo-projects-accepted-rejected

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Public Notices


Date: September 07, 2022
Close Date: September 09, 2022

Contact

Melissa Hatfield, Administrator, Bureau of Housing Supports
| Melissa.L.Hatfield@dhhs.nh.gov

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FY2022 CoC Program project applicants, and subrecipients, and CoC members










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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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COVID-19 Resources

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From: [Hatfield, Melissa](#)
Subject: FW: NH-500 FY22 Continuum of Care SNOFO Projects Accepted & Rejected
Date: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 2:52:41 PM

FY2022 CoC Program project applicants, and subrecipients, and CoC members,

The NH BoSCoC Ranking Committee met to review, score and rank the submitted FY2022 CoC Program **Supplemental** project applications. The NH Balance of State Continuum of Care (NH BoSCoC) FY2022 NH-500 SNOFO Project Ranking List is attached to this e-mail and represents project that will be submitted as part of NH BoSCoC FY2022 CoC Program Consolidated Application.

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NH-500

FY22 Supplemental CoC Program NOFA

1B-3a Public Posting Projects Accepted.

- 1) September 7, 2022 – single e-mail project notifications
- 2) Project list with score and rank
- 3) Screenshot of public posting on September 8, 2022

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



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PROJECT**

To whom it may concern:

The Youth Success Project is writing this letter in support of the New Hampshire Balance of State Continuum of Care's application for the supplemental HUD application for Rural and Unsheltered Homelessness. The Youth Success Project is the Youth Action Board for this Continuum of Care, has an active Partnership Agreement in place, and holds a voting position on the Executive Council. Members of the Youth Success Project took part in application review and scoring for this NoFo application.

We support the prioritization of individuals and families experiencing homelessness with severe service needs.

Sincerely,

Madison Lemay, Leader, Youth Success Project
Youth with Lived Experience, BoS CoC Executive Committee

Ariel Hayes, Director, Youth Success Project

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P. Comprehensive CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs

P1. Leveraging Housing Resources

P1a. P1b. Development of new units and creation of housing opportunities

See attached PHA commitment letter.

The largest Public Housing Authority in New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA), along with various local housing authorities and the CDBG grantee have a history of collaborating with the Continuum of Care in the development of new units and creation of housing. In the last year and a half, NHHFA worked with the BOSCO to establish a standardized and prioritized referral system for the Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV). NHHFA also collaborated with the BOS and BHS on HOME- ARP priorities. After a gap analysis, it was determined the best use of HOME ARP in NH was to build more affordable housing, especially for extremely low-income individuals. The data provided shows that the largest gap exists of units for extremely low-income households, those at 30% Area Median Income or below. Our data shows a gap of approximately 21,000 permanent affordable rental units for this population. The funds available will result in the creation of approximately 45-90 units of permanent housing. Additionally, NHHFA has 15 units dedicated to those experiencing homelessness with construction completion anticipated between 11/1/2022 and 12/1/2023.

The NH Department of Health and Human Services received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to use unspent American Rescue Plan funds for the development of housing opportunities for people who are experiencing chronic homelessness. NH DHHS will be releasing a funding opportunity by early 2023 to support the acquisition, renovation, or creation of supportive housing.

Through the NH Council on Housing Stability, the InvestNH opportunity was announced in May of 2022. The InvestNH opportunity made \$100 million in one-time funds available to accelerate the approval and construction of affordable workforce housing in NH. The funds are for multifamily rental housing that is affordable to individuals and families at or below 80% of area median income. Other municipal program under InvestNH will provide grants to communities that approve these projects, grants to update or review zoning, and dilapidated building demolition grants.

P1c. Landlord Recruitment

A number of landlord recruitment strategies were implemented in the last 3 years. In 2021, American Rescue Plan funds were used to launch a statewide campaign to recruit private landlords and provide financial incentives for renting to households experiencing homelessness called the Affordable Housing Incentive Program (AHIP). AHIP was created to incentivize landlords to work with local agency partners and rent units to individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and/or to enroll units in the Housing Choice Voucher program. Incentives include: A Sign On Bonus: A one-time sign on bonus between \$1500-2500 per unit, Damage Loss Mitigation: Landlords may file a claim for up to \$1500 from this fund if there are physical damages to the unit, Grant Repair Program for Housing Choice Voucher Units: Grants of up to \$4500 for Housing Choice Voucher units that fail the initial HUD code inspection, 30-Day Rental Offset to Hold Available Units: Up to one month's rent (\$1200 maximum) to hold a unit for up to 30-days in order to accommodate tenant move in, Rent Ready Tenants: All potential tenants will have the opportunity to complete a tenancy 101 course and Case Management Support: Ongoing case management services is available to all AHIP renters, visiting the tenant regularly to help with stability and goal achievement. The case manager serves as resource and point of contact for the landlord if any issues arise. Though the ARP funds are time limited, the funding helped model and provide technical assistance to communities across the state, who are currently in development of sustainable regional incentive funding beyond the ARP end date.

ESG-CV funds also allowed for landlord incentives, including signing bonuses, security deposits, repairing damages incurred by the program participant not covered by the security deposit or that are incurred while the

program participant is still residing in the unit and the cost of extra cleaning or maintenance. The New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority also launched landlord recruitment strategies including a marketing strategies to private landlords and incentive programs to encourage landlords and property owners to rent to tenants participating in the following housing programs: Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) and Foster Youth to Independence Program (FYI).

Initially, difficulties were noted in recruitment attempts with landlords. In further exploration, stigma associated with homelessness- such as hygiene concerns, inability to manage rent, damage to the unit, the limitations of Fair Market Rent caps, and the perception that dealing with third party providers is a cumbersome and difficult process. The COC and housing authorities have been working to combat this stigma by educating landlords about the benefits of renting to clients with tenant-based assistance such as guaranteed on-time payments, reduced vacancy rates, and potential landlord incentives and/or subsidies. Staff provide written information explaining the program and population assisted to all prospective landlords. These efforts have brought new landlords to the housing service providers and increased communication about upcoming units. This is especially useful in rural regions, where identifying open and affordable units accessible to transportation, employment or other service opportunities has historically not been difficult.

On a systems level, BOSCoC has recently adopted a more coordinated approach for landlord recruitment and retention in effort to increase utilization, effectively leverage the Treasury Department's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funding and to avoid the creation of confusing, competitive or duplicative incentive and recruitment programming. The Council on Housing Stability is currently working with COC members who are partners on the development of this statewide plan.

P2. Leveraging Healthcare Resources

All BOSCoC permanent housing projects, including Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing projects partner with healthcare resources such as community mental health, treatment, and recovery services for program participants who qualify for and choose such services. Providers in such projects are members of the COC and attend Local Service Delivery Area meeting, consisting of wide array of stakeholders. These stakeholders include health providers such as FQHCs, rural clinics, public health, community health workers, hospitals, syringe exchange programs, community mental health, and mobile healthcare providers. This coordinated and connection assist with identification of resources- new and current, consistent communication, case conferencing, and referrals.

Over the last year, the BOS has also been developing community capacity to bill Medicaid for Housing Tenancy Supports through training, policy development, and recruitment of appropriate providers. DHHS is actively working to implement administrative rules, develop training and establish next steps (request participation from other agencies). The 1915i was approved on July 1, 2022, to support a special population with severe service needs, including chronically homeless, or people who are nearing chronic homelessness status. This Medicaid benefit provided through a 1915i State Plan Amendment will support homeless service providers with a new revenue source to enhance and sustain the critical supportive services that are integral to the success of supportive housing.

The BOSCoC has partnered with the NH Department of Health and Human Services to expand Healthcare for the Homeless programs across the state of NH. Using American Rescue Plan funds, DHHS is expanding Healthcare for the Homeless programs to every emergency shelter and street outreach program. This project includes working with the FQHCs and other community health providers to find sustainable funding sources for these projects once the ARP funds have been expended.

P3. Current Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

P3a. Current Street Outreach Strategy

New Hampshire has implemented homeless outreach coverage to all regions of the state- including the most rural- through a variety of funding sources, which range in scope and population served. Some examples: SAMHSA's Pathways for Transition from Homelessness (PATH), focusing on households experiencing homelessness with severe and persistent mental health diagnoses and co-occurring disorders, the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), offering street outreach services to unsheltered individuals, Supportive Services for Veteran Families and the two VA Medical Centers offer street outreach to Veterans, Waypoint offers homeless outreach services to youth. Daily outreach is conducted community wide during the day to ensure comprehensive coverage and identification of all people living unsheltered in the BOSCoC. Outreach providers identify and engage people living in unsheltered locations, such as in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, encampments, and on the streets. Coordination with multidisciplinary, non-traditional partners ensures a systematic approach- diversifying the points at which individuals are identified and promoting faster access to a wider variety of targeted and mainstream programs. Examples of non-traditional partners include law enforcement, fire departments, Department of Transportation, hospitals, syringe exchange programs, Medicaid managed care organizations, public health and other health care providers. These partnerships are essential as currently, NH outreach programs do not have the funding or capacity to operate overnight or on the weekends.

To achieve coordinated outreach efforts, organization of both macro community collaborations and direct care work are required. Street outreach providers are members of the BOSCoC, as well as local service delivery areas (LSDAs) within each region. The LSDAs feature outreach collaborations and unsheltered response planning with a large a wide variety of stakeholders- such as coordinated scheduling, mapping of current/new locations, regional targets and goals, leverage different funding streams/ priorities, strategic donation coordination and discussion of trends. In addition to the stakeholders noted above, this coordination also includes stakeholders who may encounter unsheltered individuals but whose primary focus is not homelessness, such as libraries, laundromats, local businesses and faith based organizations.

Examples of exemplary partnerships:

- The Department of Safety, who routinely engages outreach providers when encountering individuals/families experiencing homelessness to connect them with services first, prior to any enforcement action. The State Police offer and encourage their troopers to take Crisis Intervention Training, which is evident in their response to, and work with households served. If safety concerns arise in encampments, collaborative, solutions focused strategies are discussed with a large team of providers, an operations plan developed, methods discussed to avoid the criminalization of homelessness and maintain the dignity of households served.
- The Department of Transportation, who encounter households in rest areas, park and rides and other DOT owned land. Their policies and procedure state to contact outreach first prior to any enforcement call. Innovation with outreach over the last year has been significant- coming up with creative solutions instead of pursuing enforcement. One example of an individual crossing a highway to get to their camp was remedied by DOT creating a bike path for them through the woods nearby. This kept the individual connected to services, allowed them to get to work and they eventually agreed to enter into permanent housing.
- Regional Public Health Networks, for increasing mobile healthcare connections and street outreach

services over the last two years.

Outreach providers are also skilled in administering direct care through canvassing all environments to identify and engage persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness using creative and dynamic approaches. Outreach providers connect with individuals both literally and figuratively; going to where the person is located and providing client centered services based on assessment of individual needs. Outreach providers are trained in Evidenced Based approaches such as Housing First, Harm Reduction, Trauma Informed Care and Motivational Interviewing. These person centered engagement efforts bring services directly to people experiencing homelessness who otherwise might not seek out services and to connect them to permanent housing and necessary supports. All Outreach services are housing focused. Outreach providers offer services that ensure people's basic needs are met while supporting them along pathways toward housing stability. Outreach providers must utilize Housing First approaches that do not impose preconditions to make referrals to permanent housing, shelter, or other temporary housing, such as sobriety, minimum income requirements, absence of a criminal record, completion of treatment, participation in services, or other unnecessary conditions. Street Outreach programs are also expected to have inclusive policies regarding behavior in the program, aimed at helping households be successful- not penalizing for behaviors which may perpetuate the homelessness experience for the individual; such as tardiness to meetings, declining to engage in a service referral, not following a budget...etc.

While outreach projects practice Housing First, their responses are not housing only. Street Outreach providers are essential in providing whole health and family resource connections for individuals to promote overall stability. These service include healthcare connections (health insurance, primary care, street medicine, behavioral health, substance use treatment, syringe exchange connections, public health, community workers...etc), employment assistance (such as assessment, job search assistance, work readiness training, occupational training, job placement, and retention services), legal aide, education assistance (public schools, homelessness liaisons, high education) assessment of and obtaining mainstream and other eligible benefits including but not limited to SSDI/SSI, VA, Head Start, SNAP and ATPD.

Exits into permanent housing are tracked, measured and reviewed as part of performance outcomes. A variety of methods are used to assist individuals in exiting homelessness into permanent housing, including Coordinated Entry. The NH Coordinated Entry (CE) process was developed to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equitable access, are quickly identified, assessed, referred, and connected to housing assistance based on their individual strengths and needs. The NH CoCs operate a "multi-door" CE system, which aims to provide immediate and equitable access to assistance and appropriate supports through a variety of access points.

The process begins by the initial provider encountering the individual/family experiencing homelessness conducts the Prevention and Diversion Tool (PDT) with them. This PDT gathers basic information and engages in housing problem solving. The PDT can be completed by 2-1-1, assessment partners or referral partners. Outreach teams are an essential part of this process, as they improve access and identification of households who may have challenges connecting otherwise, such as not having a cell phone, not having knowledge of the service or have a mistrust of the system. The PDT information is then entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for service coordination.

Gathering information from the PDT and developing trusting rapport can take time, especially with highly vulnerable households. Outreach providers are trained on effective strategies to engage the most vulnerable and

hard to reach households. This includes the formal evidenced based trainings mentioned above, USICH, HHRC and National Alliance best practices, use of basic needs and care as small steps toward engagement, as well as dynamic strategies such as utilizing peers or subpopulation specific outreach workers (Veteran or youth for example) to promote trust-building practices. Engagement also includes providing culturally responsive and appropriate services to individuals/families served. Street outreach efforts are respectful and responsive to the beliefs and practices, sexual orientations, disability statuses, age, gender identities, cultural preferences, and linguistic needs of all individuals. Increasing representation of those experiencing homelessness within the provider field is an ongoing goal within the Balance of State. All outreach providers have a Limited English Proficiency plan detailing how to provide language accommodations to meet population's needs, including interpreters, Language Line, sign language interpreters, and others as appropriate in their community.

Once engaged, outreach providers use the Coordinated Entry Common Assessment, which prioritizes housing opportunities based on vulnerability. Vulnerability factors include, but are not limited to history of homelessness, chronic status, health, behavioral health, safety, criminal justice involvement and being a member of an overrepresented population in the homelessness response system relative to census data. Individuals high in vulnerability, such as those meeting long-term and chronic homelessness, often show high rates of trauma, mental health disorders, co-occurring disorders and chronic physical conditions. Given the high mortality rate and health disparities for these individuals, quickly matching them to housing and services is critical. Outreach teams are essential in linking matched households to housing programs such as Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH), helping them navigate any documentation or logistical challenges (such as transportation) in order to make the housing opportunity as low barrier as possible. In addition, outreach providers may work with individuals/ families served on other housing applications and opportunities such as Housing Choice Vouchers, specialized housing programs not through the COC or other long-term Housing Authority project based opportunities.

As noted above, street outreach programs are encouraged to recruit and hire persons with lived experience. Having lived expertise also allows for more collaborative, innovative, creative, and accessible solutions, particularly for persons highly vulnerable. Some street outreach programs currently have peer supports and outreach providers with lived experience on their teams. The Supplemental NOFO funding presents an opportunity to further expand and fund this important work throughout the Balance of State.

New Hampshire recently changed HMIS platforms, and is working on updates to outreach data collection, review and other features of the system such as interactive outreach mapping. Outreach teams currently have access to mobile technology such as cell phones and tablets to input HMIS data in the field. This ensures timely data entry and increased coordination from other service providers. The NH Partnership Agreement allows for data sharing and case conferencing to improve communication and response to persons served. The regional active lists include client centered data on all persons experiencing homelessness within the community and are informed by various data sources. All street outreach contacts and housing placements are documented in HMIS or another local data system, such as an active or by-name list. Outreach workers have access to data systems to be able to input data, look up previous contacts with the person experiencing homelessness, and access information on available resources.

P3b. Current Strategy to Provide Immediate Access to Low-barrier Shelter and Other Temporary Housing Accommodations for Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness

While permanent housing ends homelessness, the BOSCoC recognizes that emergency shelters and temporary housing accommodations play an important role in the homeless response system as they create a safe place to

go while having a housing crisis. Shelters within the BOSCoC provides immediate and low-barrier access to safe and decent shelter to anyone that needs it, with the goal of re-housing the household quickly.

Access to shelter, transitional housing and temporary housing comes from a variety of places. Providers refer to, and coordinate with providers with temporary accommodations such as low-barrier shelter in effort to safety plan, triage immediate needs to ensure person served's basic needs are being met while supporting them on pathways to permanent housing. NH 2-1-1 provides crisis triage and referral information for NH's emergency shelter and transitional housing programs, but education of, and connection to those programs extend to providers throughout the COC. Street outreach providers are sources of shelter connections- by engaging households experiencing unsheltered homelessness and offering immediate shelter while working on permanent housing goals with the household. Street outreach efforts accept that some individuals may not initially accept offers of emergency shelter or housing assistance. While maintaining a focus on creating connections to permanent housing, and continued shelter offers, outreach establishes rapport and reduce harm by providing critical, life-saving resources such as food, water, clothing, blankets, and other needs. Resource/ Day Centers offering services and support to individuals experiencing homelessness are also sources to help navigate shelter or temporary housing options while working on permanent housing solutions.

Regardless of how individuals access the programs, a Prevention Diversion Tool (PDT) is conducted with all households for initial problem solving discussion using their own strengths and resources. Any provider interacting with the household- such as 2-1-1, the emergency shelter staff, city welfare or other community provider, or street outreach can complete the PDT. In the event further homelessness cannot be diverted or resolved with permanent housing immediately, low barrier access is provided. BOSCoC shelters practice Housing First approaches- contractually obligated for all shelters supported by state or federal funds through the Bureau of Housing Supports.- that entry to the shelter is not contingent on sobriety, minimum income requirements, criminal records, or other unnecessary conditions.

The shelter administrator at the Bureau of Housing Supports conducts coordinated shelter calls for trainings on best practices, such as the Five Key Elements of Shelter (Housing First Approaches, Safe and Appropriate Diversion, Immediate and Low Barrier Access and Data to Measure Performance).

Shelters have been effective in coordinated entry participation and quickly connecting people to housing opportunities. Despite these connections, the length of stay in shelter has increased due to the lack of available, affordable housing units across the COC.

With all shelters in the state at full capacity when the pandemic hit, the need to create socially distant spaces caused significant challenges. Shelter providers were further confronted with the need to isolate or quarantine those diagnosed or exposed to COVID-19. In New Hampshire, six of the seven regions reported seeing an increase in unsheltered homelessness at the start of the pandemic. Most reported this increase due to three primary factors: 1) Decreased emergency shelter bed capacity across the state; 2) A reduction in social connections willing to provide shelter in their home due to fear of spreading COVID-19 and; 3) Personal concern for one's health by increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 in congregate emergency shelter settings. Each region was creative in developing quick responses to managing the uptick in unsheltered homelessness and to ensure that additional numbers were not added as a result of having to eliminate more emergency beds. Funding through DHHS created two statewide isolation and quarantine sites; and expanded coverage for staffing costs among shelter providers. To address the impact of COVID-19 on NH's shelter system, Governor Sununu created a \$15M Shelter Modification Fund to support necessary shelter modifications. ESG-CV funding also was provided to emergency shelter providers for operations, modifications and essential services.

Innovations identified included: The Seacoast region partnered with a hotel to lease rooms for the decompression of its emergency shelter to maintain the capacity for sheltering pre-COVID-19. The North Country leased hotel rooms for those newly unsheltered and provided supportive services to these individuals to transition them within weeks to permanent housing solutions. The Southwestern and Manchester regions repurposed buildings for decompression of emergency shelters to maintain as many emergency beds as possible (NH Coalition to End Homelessness, State of Homelessness, 2020).

The pivots to non-congregate sheltering such as leasing hotels or converting buildings was made possible due to the dramatic increase of federal funding to support those efforts during the pandemic. Without those funds, large-scale non congregate shelters are expensive and difficult to manage with limited staffing. Recognizing this, the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority allows developers to apply for funding to create non-congregate shelter through the existing rolling supportive housing NOFO. Developers will be able to create non-congregate shelter units either through acquisition, acquisition and rehabilitation or new construction. New Hampshire shelters were also able to utilize the modification funds though to update and adjust current structures to better accommodate the lessons learned from the pandemic.

In September of 2022, DHHS requested \$5 million in ARP funds through the Governor's Office of Economic Relief and Recovery in order to support emergency shelter operations and expansion. \$4 million was requested to support existing emergency shelters with pandemic related expenses, including workforce challenges. This will allow the shelters to return to pre-pandemic bed availability. The remaining \$1 million was requested to support the creation of winter shelter responses in each county in NH. The funding was approved, and DHHS quickly released a Request for Applications for the winter shelter responses, and initiated contract amendments for the existing emergency shelters. All shelters funded through these efforts will be contractually required to provide low-barrier emergency shelter responses.

P3c. Current Strategy to Provide Immediate Access to Low-Barrier Permanent Housing for Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

The BOSCO utilizes the Coordinated Entry process to promote the standardization of housing assessment and referrals, improve resource targeting, prioritize housing for those with the greatest need and quickly connect people to appropriate and tailored housing and services. Providers working with households homelessness employ problem-solving techniques to identify strengths and existing support networks, explore possible safe housing options outside the homelessness service system (such as reunification with family) and connect the individual to community supports and services. The CE Assessment informs vulnerability and resource matching along with individual centered case conferencing to ensure the best connection is made for the household, rooted in individual choice. Additionally, providers help navigate additional permanent housing options, such as housing choice vouchers, low income housing properties, HOME, CDBG funded properties and subpopulation specific (such as veteran or elderly) housing placement. They then assist with any application or document required, coordinate with agencies on move in needs such as security deposit, move in costs...etc, and coordinate logistics such as transportation. The ample array of stakeholders in the COC and LSDA meetings increases coordination with additional partners such as landlords, housing authorities and other resources with housing opportunities.

The BOSCO, including its Coordinated Entry system, hold a commitment to Housing First as a core practice, ensuring client choice and service orientation, responding as a crisis response intervention, and ensuring services are provided as-needed and in a progressive, individualized manner. Homelessness and unstable housing can cause significant stress and effects similar to other traumatic experiences. Consequently, CE and housing services are grounded in basic principles and practices consistent with evidence-based, trauma-

informed care, such as establishing a welcoming, safe space and being explicit about the purpose of assessment and why certain questions are being asked. This is especially important during the initial engagement. It is essential that the assessment process does not cause further stress during a housing crisis. Importantly, the COC is a Housing First system, meaning an array of options are available to individuals experiencing homelessness, including recovery housing and other programming not practicing Housing First approaches. The expectation is that Housing First programs are discussed and offered upon presentation in those non- Housing First programs, and the household decides what works best for them. This allows for individual choice and self-determination with household goals and expands diversity of resources in the community. Housing First practices are also institutionalized through DHHS contracting. In applications for federal and state funding, agencies must attach copies of their policies and procedures demonstrating clear Housing First practices in program execution.

The COC has invested in increasing RRH and PSH for individuals experiencing homelessness, including those unsheltered. For RRH, over the past three years the BOSCOC has expanded adding a dedicated youth CoC RRH project, and RRH, host homes, TH-RRH, and transitional housing for transition-age youth via the YHDP; and added 3 CoC-funded RRH programs for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, to increase capacity to serve people experiencing both unsheltered and sheltered homelessness. A variety of housing program types have also been added to the COC including joint YHDP TH-RRH and Shallow Subsidies through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program. The BOSCOC works closely with the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority. The collaborative prioritization and referral process of the Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) built an effective model for housing choice voucher matching based on vulnerability as established through the Coordinated Entry system. As mentioned in the “Leveraging Housing Resources” section of this plan, NHHFA has committed work with the BOSCoC to pair vouchers with CoC-funded supportive services and work with the BOSCoC and other stakeholders to develop a prioritization plan for a potential allocation of Stability Vouchers or a preference for general admission to Housing Choice Voucher program through the coordinated entry process for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; and veterans and families that include a veteran family member. The goal of new and different housing types is to further access to low barrier, culturally responsive permanent housing for persons/families experiencing homelessness and create customized housing packages for each to assist with housing stability.

Lessons learned from the pandemic still impact the work in the COC. Increasing street outreach and emergency shelter funding significantly increased the ability of providers to connect households with housing resources. Housing navigation services, described above, and the strategic leveraging of funds allowed providers to specialize in roles to assist household in quickly accessing permanent housing. The increase of funding to support technology such as tablets and hotspots allowed provider to enter data in real time and complete online applications with households served.

P4. Updating the CoCs Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House Individuals Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness with Data and Performance

The BOSCoC is continuously updating its strategy to identify, shelter, and house individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness using data, performance, and best practices to improve the performance of the homeless system. The three NH CoCs recently change HMIS platforms and are in the midst of completing data transfers into the new system. Street Outreach, shelter and other housing service providers were involved in the review and recommendation of the new platform. The Outreach subcommittee will be working with the HMIS vendor on custom reports, the development of and implementation of new features not in the previous system- such as interactive outreach mapping. The outreach subcommittee will also be reviewing projected goals and

performance outcomes using these new custom reports. This will enable us to have outreach dashboards, objectively looking at projected goals and measuring performance to inform improvement plans.

The HMIS Advisory Committee, which includes members from all 3 Continuums of Care in NH, analyzes System Performance reports- including street outreach, shelter and permanent housing programs. Prioritizing components of the system are reviewed- either those that are performing well and should be replicated, or components that are not achieving positive outcomes and present opportunities for improvement. These system performance measures include number of days in the homelessness experience, exits to permanent destinations, and returns to homelessness—which together signal how efficiently and effectively the system is operating. Stella Performance breaks down these measures by different subpopulations (e.g., race) and household types (e.g., families and single adults). Examples of trends reviewed: Is performance staying the same, improving, or getting worse over time? Comparisons: Do certain groups achieve better or worse outcomes than others? For example, are white clients being referred and housed at higher rates than Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC)? Monitoring: To what extent is the CoC achieving its performance goals/targets? Why? Impact: Which system components or pathways have the greatest impact on overall performance? Data Quality: Are these results influenced by data quality issues? The specific areas noted can then be communicated to the appropriate subcommittee (such as outreach, shelter) for improvement plan or sharing of successes for replication with the COC. An example of an outcome from this process is this group proposed- and the COCs voted- in 2021 to add additional equity questions to improve our understanding of which populations are over represented but underserved within our CoC. This information will inform the BOSCOC Coordinated Entry process, which gives priority to populations that are overrepresented but underserved.

P4a. Street outreach within the CoC's geographic area

As discussed throughout this application, street outreach providers not only use the Coordinated Entry system, they are critical assessment partners. All outreach contacts, including the initial Prevention and Diversion Tool as well as the complete Coordinated Entry assessment are entered into HMIS. If a provider serving unsheltered individuals/ families does not use HMIS, street outreach works with them to gather information collaboratively to be entered into HMIS. The increase in tablets and hotspots has helped with accurate, timely data entry in the field. This informs the Regional Prioritization List for housing matching, outreach lists for those not yet in CE to bolster coordination, navigator matching and decreased duplication of services. The NH Partnership Agreement allows for case conferencing and collective problem solving with partners who do not use or have access to HMIS. New and non-traditional partners have been incorporated into street outreach activities and are members of the Local Service Delivery Areas, for coordinated response and data sharing. The COC Outreach subcommittee analyzes demographics and trends over time and focuses on continuous performance improvement. Street Outreach programs adhere to performance metrics that set standards for successful outcomes, successful housing outcomes, twelve-month recidivism percentage and average length of participation in the project.

P4b. Providing access to low-barrier shelter and temporary accommodations

The BOSCOC and the Bureau of Housing Supports continuously work with emergency shelters and transitional housing programs to address the average length of stay and participant success rate. By decreasing the average length of shelter/transitional housing stays and increasing success rates, the positive bed turnover creates more availability for beds and low-barrier shelter and temporary accommodations expand without increasing the bed capacity of these programs. New projects that could be funded through this SNOFO include SSO projects, which would assist in providing access to low-barrier shelter and temporary accommodations.

P4c. Rapidly housing individuals and families who have histories of unsheltered homelessness in permanent housing.

The new HMIS platform will assist BOSCO in more in depth tracking of unsheltered population with the goal of reducing the overall time by reducing the time for the components of the housing process – time to housing referral, time for eligibility determination and submission of housing documentation, and time to lease signing. This will also tie in the racial disparities and other marginalized, oppressed populations experiencing homelessness by examining each step by demographics. This will inform a response plan if, and where in the process disparities present.

P5. Identify and Prioritize Households Experiencing or with Histories of Unsheltered Homelessness

Resources provided under this Supplemental NOFO will allow the CoC to prioritize individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homeless through expansion of Supportive Services Only projects. Supportive Services Only projects are an invaluable resource that would significantly increase the COC's ability to expand and manage unsheltered homeless response. As noted in the outreach strategy above, while the COC has various outreach programs, most have specified subpopulation or other scope restrictions. During the pandemic, the BOSCO expanded street outreach services through the Emergency Solutions Grant CARES funding. The infusion of these resources, which could serve anyone experiencing unsheltered homelessness and were not limited to certain groups- had an immediate impact on unsheltered response. Organizations and communities were then able to strategically leverage funding to create a comprehensive system with more providers and more intensive services offered. For example, it allowed providers with COC- SSO CE projects to dedicate time specifically to expanded diversion discussions, management of active lists, organizing and hosting case conferencing to drive housing solutions instead of trying to manage it all and provide quality outreach. The COC- SSO CE positions could then refer to and rely on ESG street outreach to provide boots on the ground, intensive and dynamic outreach to the unsheltered individuals. This allowed for more frequent and targeted outreach to be conducted, especially with increased staffing in rural regions. ESG subrecipients were also able to expand their Street Outreach programs to include additional outreach roles, such as peer support specialists, clinicians and medical staffing such as RNs to conduct street medicine outreach for urgent needs during the pandemic.

During the pandemic, the COC saw an increase in unsheltered homelessness and acuity of households, such as a rise in chronic homelessness. While the COC does not seek to increase these categories, having an accurate scope is essential in an effective unsheltered response. With less affordable housing available, people living in emergency shelters are not able to exit to permanent housing options quickly, likely causing an increase in chronic homelessness. However, this is not the only reason for the increased data. The addition of outreach funds allowed for more in depth canvassing, time spent with households and in coordinating the logistics of shelter or housing placement such as transportation (which takes significant driving time in rural regions with large geographies). This investment contributed to the identification of, and connection of households to housing resources who met high acuity and chronic status, but who had not previously engaged with the system.

The success of the ESG outreach component prompted BHS, as State ESG Recipient, to expand annual ESG components to include street outreach services. With yearly funding less than 1/8th of what was received from CARES though, with a maximum cap of this activity of 60% of the grant award, and with those limited ESG funds also supporting Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention- the capacity for these general outreach positions when the CV funds end is concerning. The SSO projects through this SNOFO could fund those crucial outreach roles created with the ESGCV funding, allowing annual ESG to then hyper-focus on Rapid Rehousing,

with some Homelessness Prevention, to increase housing openings and bolster the housing success outcomes for both grants.

Regarding prioritization, over the last two years, the BOSCOG invested significant time and resources on Coordinated Entry training and development to ensure the methods used reflect the priorities of the COC and most importantly, effectively connect those highest in vulnerability to housing opportunities. Focus groups were conducted with providers and persons with lived experience on the process. As a result, a new Coordinated Entry Assessment tool was designed locally. This tool weaves together the nuances of an effective homeless crisis response system: use of housing problem solving to promote diversion and rapid exit outcomes, dynamic assessment phases that meet the needs of individuals and account for a changing resource environment, trauma informed engagement strategies, housing first approaches, progressive client-center assistance, and appropriate housing matches within a limit resource pool.

As part of the new tool, expanded categories of vulnerability were included. Unsheltered homelessness, length of time in homelessness, chronic homelessness status and history of homelessness have long been the highest priority factors on BOSCOG CE assessment tools. Importantly though, in acknowledging the structural oppression and historical discriminatory practices in our systems- including the homelessness and housing systems- additional categories were added to aid in targeting of resources to those most vulnerable within that unsheltered population. These categories include criminal justice involvement, being a member of an overrepresented population within the homelessness response system and health-including mental health and substance use that has led to adverse housing impacts or instability.

Outreach teams were trained not only on the new tool, but in larger methods of engagement in conducting the tool to be as person centered and trauma informed as possible. The following is an example of the CE onboarding training, developed in conjunction with the Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant:

- Be aware: Unconscious bias and implicit racism have resulted in disparities within our systems and institutions. Consistently ask oneself: Would I be reacting (thinking, feeling) the same way no matter who the person is or what the situation is? How have current and historic inequities contributed to this person's situation, needs, and preferences?
- Check Assumptions: Do not assume the gender, sexuality, race, or other identities of the person.
- Listen with empathy: Before asking a person to disclose more or specific detail, ask oneself: Am I curious or concerned? Is knowing this information critical to the assessment process? Acknowledge that sharing personal information and details sometimes results in an emotional toll. Clarify details only to support the process or help determine where to refer someone for additional support.
- Seek to Empower: CE partners are responsible for ensuring personal choice and self-determination help drive the housing intervention. CE Partners must support the person in their goals, rather than goals imposed by the program.
- Look for Creative Options: Some people may have natural support systems or other options available that CE partners can assist with. Some of these options may be temporary in nature but allow the person and the CE Assessor or partner the time and space to establish a longer-term housing plan and options

As described in P3a, permanent housing connections, housing navigation services, and providing access to health care and other supportive services are foundational to Street Outreach projects in the BOSCOG. Resources obtained from this SNOFO would have the same expectations. These services seek to identify opportunities and address barriers to housing for individuals and families exiting street, and other forms of unsheltered homelessness. Housing connections are provided in a variety of ways, including active participation

in the Coordinated Entry process. Outreach providers also assist with applications to additional housing opportunities such as Housing Choice Vouchers, low income tax properties, specialized housing programs and others through state/federal funding opportunities. Coordination of resources to support housing move in are also implemented- such as security deposits, moving costs, childcare costs, application fees...etc. In addition to the work described in P3a, housing navigation services provided in street outreach project are: Acting as a guide and support individuals and families through the housing search process, identifying strategies and resources to mitigate issues with credit reports, utility arrears, criminal records, and/ or unfavorable landlord references, participating in the housing needs assessment process to identify individuals' and families' housing preferences, assisting clients with application to landlords and Public Housing Authorities (PHA) for permanent housing and in preparing/obtaining any needed documentation, negotiating with PHA officials for timely inspections and landlord corrective action requests and assisting individuals and families with expanded housing searches when necessary to ensure timely permanent housing. These funds would allow us to build on current efforts and adequately fund programs invested in this work and bolster services in the most rural regions.

Identification of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness also comes from a variety of sources. As mentioned in P3a, outreach providers are expected to be part of community unsheltered and outreach meetings in addition to providing direct care. This allows for group discussion and planning around outreach strategies, hot spot locations, a standardized communication plan for marketing resources to innovative and creative partners, solution focused work with community partners whose primary role is not homelessness focused, and more. Physical canvassing, use of technology to determine historical and current hot spot locations and the expansion of partners (such as Fish and Game, Parks and Recreation, the Bureau of Rail and Transit, Local and state police, Dept of Transportation...etc) help make new connections to individuals experiencing homelessness who may not otherwise engage or have access to services. The COC's Coordinated Entry subcommittee also developed a CE marketing plan, including methods to reach persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

P6. Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Decision-Making

See attached Lived Experience Support Letter

The BOSCOG has primarily conducted targeted outreach to engage people with lived experience of homelessness in leadership roles, and COG decision-making processes. The BOSCOG Executive Committee participated in the HUD Learning Collaborative on Engaging People with Lived Experience. Through that Learning Collaborative, the BOSCOG created an Action Plan to improve the engagement of people with lived experience in homelessness, including increasing representation of people with lived experience on the BOSCOG Executive Committee. The BOSCOG presented the Action Plan to the general membership, and requested that each agency consider the people they are serving through their homeless or housing projects, and invite them to participate in BOSCOG meetings and Subcommittees. The reason behind this approach was that the BOSCOG Executive Committee learned through the Learning Collaborative that a personal invitation was more meaningful than a general email. This also gave the person with lived experience a point of contact within the BOSCOG to go to for support, or with their questions. At the same time, the BOSCOG was increasing participation in the Youth Success Project (YSP - NH's Youth Action Board). The mission of the Youth Success Project is to create an equitable platform for youth voice in decision making spaces through collective power and advocacy work led by those who have been most marginalized. The BOSCOG voted to include the full YSP as voting members of the BOSCOG. The BOSCOG also voted to add 2 additional seats on the BOSCOG Executive Committee for people with lived experience, with one being a youth with lived experience to influence local policy and priorities that impact those experiencing homelessness. The BOSCOG Executive Committee now has 3 members with lived experience in homelessness. Members of the YSP are included in working/ subcommittees across the COG, such as the Youth subcommittee, Coordinated Entry subcommittee as

well as larger systems work the groups such as the Council for Housing Stability. Members of the YSP are invited to, and participate in the rank and review process of COC NOFO applications.

The BOSCOC provides professional development and employment opportunities to individuals with lived experience in homelessness through COC partnerships, and through COC membership organization activities. The BOSCOC has increased coordination at the state level between departments that fund service resources to connect people with lived experience to employment training and job placement. TANF & Medicaid programs have employment requirements, including support in accessing training and employment opportunities. BOSCOC partners with DHHS, where these services, and others including Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled and cash assistance, are housed, in order to educate providers on available services and eligibility requirements to support access for people experiencing homelessness. Additional DHHS partnerships include with Child Development & Head Start Collaboration to educate providers on childcare scholarships and Head Start enrollment to help people experiencing homelessness, or with previous lived experience in homelessness, overcome barriers to employment. The BOSCOC has relationships with the DHHS Bureau of Employment Supports & NH Employment Security (NHES - unemployment office). NHES operates 12 full service employment centers that offer Monday – Friday scheduled meetings and drop-in hours for people seeking employment. NHES staff provided education to BOSCOC providers on how to access available services so BOSCOC providers can support people experiencing homelessness, or with previous lived experience in homelessness, with obtaining professional development and employment opportunities.

The BOSCOC started hosting focus groups with people with lived experience in homelessness, including people who previously experienced homelessness and people who were actively experiencing homelessness, through the Coordinated Entry Subcommittee's development of a NH specific Coordinated Assessment Tool. Both COC and ESG programs are required to use Coordinated Entry for prioritization of housing placements, and participants from both programs were invited to participate in the focus groups. This process will happen annually to ensure that feedback from people experiencing homelessness, and people who have received assistance through the COC or ESG programs is being gathered and considered. The BOSCOC also sends out (through COC and ESG program providers) an anonymous survey to people being served by those programs to gather feedback on their experience. The BOSCOC made changes to the Coordinated Entry Assessment Tool based on feedback from the focus groups with people with lived experience, or who have been served through COC or ESG programs. Through the YHDP process, the BOSCOC has involved the Youth Success Project (NH's Youth Action Board), in the project design and implementation for the newly funded YHDP projects within the BOSCOC. Using this model, the BOSCOC will consult the people with lived experience on the BOSCOC board for feedback and suggestions on how to address the challenges that are raised during focus groups and through surveys

P7. Supporting Underserved Communities and Supporting Equitable Community Development

BOSCOC utilizes the HUD COC Racial Equity Tools and HMIS equity dashboards to review current disparities. Most notably, while Black individuals consist of only 1% of the total population in New Hampshire, they are overrepresented in the homeless response system at 4%. Structural racism and historically discriminatory practices such as redlining have contributed to disparities in communities.

All subrecipient agencies within the BOSCoC were encouraged to invite persons with lived experience, including persons of different races who are over-represented in the local homeless population, to participate in their local homeless services provider meetings, and invite them to participate in BOSCOC meetings and subcommittees. Input from local meetings was shared with the full membership, and during subcommittee meetings. The BOSCOC identified in FY21 that participation from people of different races was low and the

system and projects needed to improve in this area. The lack of input impacted the rating factors in that based on the review/feedback from people with lived experience, rating factors to score project applicants on their agency leadership structure, board structure, & hiring process, giving points for having people with lived experience, people of different races, and people who identify as LGBTQ were included. During the 9/9/22 BOSCOC NOFO meeting, the Collaborative Applicant(CA) reviewed the equity priorities with the full membership, including the inclusion of people with lived experience, people of different races, and people who identify as LGBTQ. The CA encouraged anyone who identifies with one of these populations to join the rank and review committee. The BOSCOC rank and review committee did not receive any volunteers from people who are different races other than white. The Rank and Review committee included 2 people with lived experience, and 1 person who identifies as LGBTQ.

During the FY21 CoC Program competition, the BOSCOC added equity questions to the new and renewal project scoring tools, asking project applicants if their boards of directors and management teams had equitable representation, if they had a policy for incorporating feedback from more than one person with lived experience and from people with equitable representation, and if they reviewed project level data from HMIS or a comparable database with an equitable lens. A training was then held with all subrecipient agencies on January 18, 2022 to reinforce the importance of obtaining feedback from persons of different races, particularly those over-represented in the local homeless population, on CoC project implementation and outcomes and these questions were in FY22 tools. During the year, projects were monitored, and progress on obtaining feedback from persons of different races was assessed, and barriers to participated were reviewed.

Additionally, following consultations with the Bureau of Health Equity about how to collect data in equitable ways, the HMIS Advisory committee discussed the need for increased data elements to determine the scope of potential disparities among persons who have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. The HMIS Advisory Committee proposed to including expanded gender identity and sexual orientation questions to all universal data elements collected to further our understanding of overrepresented and underserved populations with our COC.

These funds will allow for the expansion of street outreach teams, aimed at increased representation of the underserved communities experiencing homelessness. The increase in street outreach will allow for further connections to best serve individuals that have not previously been served by the homeless response system at the same rate they are experiencing homelessness.